

Application No. 09/414,483
Amendment dated April 26, 2004
Reply to Office Action of October 30, 2003

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1 - 23 (cancelled)

Claim 24 (currently amended):

In a combination in a building structure,

a pair of vertical lengths of lumber;

a horizontal length of ~~lumber~~ lumber and

a metal corner connector interconnecting said vertical and horizontal lengths[[:]],

said corner connector comprising an intermediate section, at least one lateral flange projecting horizontally from said intermediate section and a vertical flange projecting upwardly from said intermediate section;

said vertical and horizontal lengths having ends in abutment with said intermediate sections and in ~~the~~ face-to-face contact with said vertical and the lateral flanges, respectively[[:]]; and

said vertical flange extending between said vertical lengths.

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Claims 25 - 28 cancelled

Claim 29 (currently amended):

A building component, comprising a plurality of lengths of lumber connected together to form a rectangular frame around an opening, a foam material provided in said opening, a reinforcement skin of solidified composite material adhering to said lengths of lumber and to said foam material at one side of said frame, said reinforcement skin extending over said lengths of lumber at said one side of said frame and also over said opening, whereby said rectangular frame is reinforced by said reinforcement skin against the action of racking forces on said rectangular frame[.]; and metal corner connectors connecting said lengths of lumber together at corners of said rectangular frame, said corner connectors having box-shaped sections, said lengths of lumber having ends thereof in abutment with said box-shaped sections, and said corner connectors including flanges extending along said lengths of lumber from said box-shaped sections.

Claim 30 (previously presented):

A building component as claimed in claim 29, wherein said reinforcement skin extends over the entirety of said one side of said frame.

Claim 31 (previously presented):

A building component as claimed in claim 29, wherein said reinforcement skin overlaps and adheres to the periphery of said rectangular frame.

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Claim 32 (previously presented):

A building component as claimed in claim 29, wherein said reinforcement skin overlaps and adheres to an opposite side of said frame.

Claim 33 (previously presented):

A building component as claimed in claim 29, wherein said composite material is reinforced with fiber.

Claim 34 (previously presented):

A building component as claimed in claim 29, including a fiber mesh reinforcing said composite material.

Claim 35 (cancelled)

Claim 36 (currently amended):

A building component as claimed in claim ~~[[34]]~~ 29, wherein said flanges extend between pairs of said lengths of lumber.

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Claim 37 (currently amended):

A method of making a building component, which comprises the steps of connecting together a plurality of lengths of lumber to form a rectangular frame extending around an opening, providing a foam material in said opening, installing metal corner connectors at corners of said rectangular frame to connect said lengths of lumber to one another, said corner connectors comprising box-shaped sections and flanges extending from said box-shaped sections and said lengths of lumber being located with ends thereof in abutment with said box-shaped sections and with said flanges extending along the lengths of lumber, applying a coating of liquid composite material to one side of said frame and to said foam material in said opening and allowing said composite material to solidify in adherence with said lengths of lumber and said foam material at said one side of said rectangular frame to form a reinforcement skin extending over said lengths of lumber, said opening and said foam material at said one side of said frame so as to reinforce said rectangular frame against racking forces.

Claim 38 (previously presented):

A method as claimed in claim 37, which includes reinforcing said composite material with a fiber reinforcement.

Claim 39 (previously presented):

A method as claimed in claim 37, which includes placing a mesh of fiber reinforcement material over said one side of said rectangular frame and said foam material and subsequently coating said mesh with said coating material during the step of applying said coating material so that said coating material impregnates said mesh.

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Claim 40 (cancelled)

Claim 41 (currently amended):

A method as claimed in claim ~~[[41]]~~ 37, wherein the flanges are arranged to extend between pairs of said lengths of lumber.

Claims 42 - 44 cancelled